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Attorney Docket No. 12748US02

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EMBOSSING EXPANDED GRAPHITE SHEET MATERIAL UNDER REDUCED PRESSURE**

the specification of which was filed as U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/747,571 on December 22, 2000.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, section 119(a)-(d) or section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or section 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

NONE.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

NONE.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, section 120 of any United States application(s), or section 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in such prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/569,710 filed May 10, 2000, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Embossing Expanded Graphite Sheet Material under Reduced Pressure".

I hereby appoint:

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the address and telephone number of each of whom is McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., 500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60661, 312/775-8000, as our attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please direct telephone calls to Robert W. Fieseler at (312) 775-8123. Please direct facsimiles to Robert W. Fieseler at (312) 775-8100.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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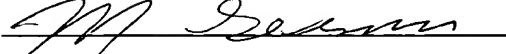
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Full name of sixth inventor: Horst Thumm

Inventor's signature  Date March 30, 01

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